

REMARKS

A requirement was made in the above-identified Office Action that Figs. 1A and 1B must be identified as “Prior Art”. Accompanying this Amendment is a Submission of Replacement Sheet 1 of the Drawings wherein an amended first sheet of the drawings is being submitted to effect the required “Prior Art” designation to Figs. 1A and 1B.

In the Office Action all of the claims were rejected in view of the cited Kozuka patent. By this response, however, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended so that they are believed to be patentably distinct over the Kozuka patent. Particularly, independent Claims 1 and 8 relate to an image pickup device wherein each pixel is driven by a plurality of pulses, such as ϕ_{TX} as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, which are applied to a transfer switch, such as element 2 in Fig. 2. The transfer switch is included in the pixel to transfer a signal generated by the photoelectric conversion element of the pixel.

Applicants respectfully submit that these inventive features are not disclosed in the cited Kozuka patent. Instead, as shown in Figs. 1A and 1B of Kozuka, a pulse ϕ_{T1} is supplied twice to a MOS transistor 4 in each field, first to transfer a signal to a capacitor 5, and then to transfer a reset noise signal to the capacitor. Accordingly, Kozuka does not apply a plurality of pulses “to the transfer switch to transfer the signal generated by the photoelectric conversion unit via the transfer switch”.

For these reasons it is believed that the amended claims are now allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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